Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University

Civil Rights, Migration and Workplace Law Initiative

MIXED-STATUS FAMILY CONFERENCE

Immigration Enforcement, Resistance and Narratives Through the Lens of Mixed-Status Families

Thursday, April 9, 2026 · Beus Center for Law and Society

Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law · Arizona State University

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Krsna Avila

Legal Director, Path2Papers — A Project of Cornell Law School

Panelist — Panel 2

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Krsna is based in San Francisco, California, and joins Cornell Law School's Path2Papers with a wealth of personal and professional immigration experience. Krsna immigrated from Mexico to the United States as a child.

Prior to joining Path2Papers, Krsna worked at the Immigrant Legal Resource Center as an attorney focused on DACA advocacy and implementation. He also worked as the legal services manager at Immigrants Rising where he provided legal support to undocumented youth throughout the country.

At Cornell Law School, Krsna worked at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Washington, DC, and the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. He also participated in the Asylum and Convention Against Torture Appellate Clinic, where he helped represent clients before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

Krsna earned his undergraduate degree from the University of California–Davis and his law degree from Cornell Law School, where he received the Freeman Award for Civil-Human Rights for his commitment to civil rights and public service.



Vice Dean Angela M. Banks

Charles J. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU

Moderator — Panel 1

Contact: angela.m.banks@asu.edu

Angela M. Banks is a legal scholar specializing in membership and belonging in democratic societies. She is the Vice Dean and Charles J. Merriam Distinguished Professor of Law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She is the author of Civic Education in the Age of Mass Migration: Implications for Theory and Practice and numerous law review articles and book chapters. Professor Banks is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the University of Oxford, where she studied as a Marshall Scholar, and Spelman College.



Irasema Coronado

Director and Professor, School of Transborder Studies, ASU

Moderator — Panel 3

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Irasema Coronado is Director and Professor in the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University. She received her bachelor's degree in political science and a certificate in Latin American Studies from the University of South Florida. She earned an M.A. in Latin American Studies and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Arizona. A specialist in comparative politics, her research centers on human rights, migration, and social justice along the U.S.–Mexico border.

Dr. Coronado co-edited Children Crossing Borders: Latin American Migrant Childhoods (2022), a volume that examines the lived experiences of migrant children. She is co-author of Fronteras No Más: Toward Social Justice at the U.S.–Mexico Border and co-editor of Dígame! Policy and Politics on the Texas Border.

She served as President of the Association for Borderland Studies (2005–2006) and received the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2023. A Fulbright scholar to Germany in 2002 and a Border Fulbright Scholar at the Universidad Autónoma de Ciudad Juárez in 2004, Dr. Coronado has long been engaged in binational dialogue and research.



Professor Evelyn Cruz

Clinical Professor of Law; Director, Immigration Clinic — Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU

Moderator — Panel 4

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Evelyn H. Cruz, Ph.D., is a Clinical Professor of Law at Arizona State University's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, where she teaches U.S. Immigration Law and Asylum and serves as Director of the Immigration Clinic. In this role, Dr. Cruz supervises law students in the practice of law and draws on more than thirty years of experience as an attorney.

Dr. Cruz has participated in legal clinic development initiatives in Pakistan, Mexico, and El Salvador. Her international work includes developing Voz de las Víctimas, a framework to support sustainable collaboration among educational institutions, government entities, and civil society organizations.

Her scholarly interests include clinical legal theory, U.S. and Mexican immigration law, transmigration, migrant children, and procedural transparency. Dr. Cruz earned her Ph.D. in Transborder Studies from Arizona State University, where her dissertation examined bilingual Latino lawyers' attorney–client communication strategies and their implications for access to justice in immigrant communities.

Before joining the ASU faculty in 2005, Dr. Cruz was a Cover Fellow at Yale Law School's Jerome Frank Legal Services Organization. She earned her B.A. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and her J.D. from Santa Clara University College of Law.



Juan Cuéllar Torres

Director of Education & Advocacy, Kino Border Initiative, Nogales, AZ

Panelist — Panel 4

Contact: jcuellar@kinoborderinitiative.org

Juan Cuéllar Torres is the Director of Education and Advocacy at the Kino Border Initiative, where he leads binational strategies to advance migrant justice at the U.S.–Mexico border. In this role, he advances initiatives that promote migration with dignity and builds relationships with political, social, and faith leaders.

Originally trained as a lawyer in Colombia and later earning a Master of Public Policy in Germany, Juan has experience in immigration policy, public international law, and program management across governmental, nonprofit, and multilateral settings. His prior roles include leading nationwide refugee program operations with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) and representing Colombia at the United Nations on multilateral negotiations related to international law.



Rose Cuison-Villazor

Professor of Law & Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar, Rutgers Law School

Panelist — Panel 1 (Virtual)

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Rose Cuison-Villazor is Professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar at Rutgers Law School, where she previously served as Interim Co-Dean (2021–2023) and Vice Dean (2019–2021). She is also Director of the Center for Immigrant Justice and an elected member of the American Law Institute. Her research examines the extent to which laws, policies, and norms include and exclude individuals and groups from membership. She teaches and writes in the areas of immigration and citizenship law, property law, critical race theory, and Asian Americans and the law. Her scholarship has appeared in the California Law Review, Columbia Law Review, Harvard Law Review Forum, Michigan Law Review, Minnesota Law Review, and the New York University Law Review. She became the first Filipina American dean of a U.S. law school. She obtained her LL.M from Columbia Law School and J.D. from American University, Washington College of Law.



Tran Dang

Founder and Director, Rhizome Center for Migrants, Guadalajara, Mexico

Panelist — Panel 3

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Tran N. Dang, J.D., is the founder and executive director of The Rhizome Center for Migrants (IG: @therhizomecenter), a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit providing post-deportation legal, advocacy, and reintegration support to the returned and deported community and their families in Mexico.

Tran is a recognized expert and leading voice on the mid- to long-term consequences of U.S. immigration enforcement policies on the U.S.-Mexico border region, with particular emphasis on their larger impact on mixed-status families, labor migrants, and immigrant veterans. She is a contributing author at the Baker Institute for Public Policy, a leading U.S. academic think tank, and has taught for the Foreign Service Institute, a training institution for U.S. diplomats. Since 2019, 80+ U.S. law students and immigrant rights advocates have attended her on-the-ground course on border politics and its implication in the region, now in its 14th edition.

Before moving to Guadalajara, where she currently resides, Tran directed a human rights office and refugee legal aid clinic in Bangkok, Thailand. Prior to that, she was an associate attorney at the international law firm of Baker Botts LLP.

Tran is the daughter of Vietnamese refugees and is the first generation of her family born in the United States. She received her law degree from the University of Houston Law Center and holds a B.S. in both Finance and Communications from The University of Texas at Austin. She speaks English, Vietnamese, and Spanish fluently.



Dr. Laura Dicochea

Dean of Students Senior Coordinator; Ph.D. in Transborder Studies, ASU

Panelist — Panel 1

Contact: ldicoche@asu.edu

Dr. Laura Dicochea earned her PhD in Transborder Studies from Arizona State University. Her research examines the educational trajectories of transnational and transfronterizo students in higher education in Mexico and the United States. Through autobiographies and semi-structured interviews, she critically examines their migration histories, their past and present educational experiences, and their future aspirations.

As a scholar-practitioner at Arizona State University, she brings this research into practice by supporting transnational and immigrant-origin students, including undocumented and mixed-status students, through programming and support systems that foster student success, belonging, and equitable access. She also translates this work into policy recommendations that advance institutional change.

Most recently, she partnered with the Secretaría de Educación y Cultura of the State of Sonora to develop pedagogical frameworks that support the inclusion and academic success of transnational and return migrant students in Mexican schools.



Elvia Diaz

Independent Journalist and Host of Notas con Elvia Diaz

Panelist — Panel 2

Contact: elvia@notasmedia.com

Elvia Díaz is an award-winning bilingual journalist with more than two decades of experience in English- and Spanish-language media. She served as Editorial Page Editor at The Arizona Republic, where she held various reporting and editing positions covering the state legislature, breaking news, and community affairs. She previously edited La Voz, the Republic's Spanish-language publication. Díaz began her journalism career as a Spanish-language radio newscaster in northern California after emigrating from rural Michoacán, México. She holds a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. Now working as an independent journalist and commentator, she hosts Notas con Elvia Díaz, a multimedia platform covering politics, immigration, and issues affecting Latino communities. She has also served as an adjunct journalism instructor at ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism.



Dr. Emir Estrada

Associate Professor, School of Human Evolution and Social Change, ASU

Panelist — Panel 3

Contact: Emir.Estrada@asu.edu

Dr. Emir Estrada is an Associate Professor in the School of Human Evolution and Social Change at Arizona State University. A qualitative sociologist, her research examines immigrant experiences within Latin American communities, with a focus on migration, incorporation, and intergenerational family dynamics, especially among children and older adults. She is the author of *Kids at Work: Latinx Families Selling Food on the Streets of Los Angeles* (NYU Press, 2019), which received the 2020 Outstanding Scholarly Contribution Award from the American Sociological Association's Children and Youth Section and the 2020 Early-Career Book Award from the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education. She is also coauthor of *The Heart of Mentorship: Reflections on the Mentor and Mentee Relationship* (NYU Press, 2026). Her current book project explores return migration through the experiences of Mexican retirees who, after decades in the United States, return to their hometowns. Originally from Mexico, Estrada draws on her own immigration experience to inform her research. She earned her Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from the University of Southern California and her B.A. from University of California, Los Angeles.



César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández

Gregory H. Williams Chair in Civil Rights & Civil Liberties, Ohio State University College of Law

Keynote Speaker

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César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández holds the Gregory Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties at Ohio State University where he is a professor of law and director of OSU's Latinx Studies Program.

César writes and teaches about the intersection of criminal and immigration law. He has published three books, Welcome the Wretched: In Defense of the "Criminal Alien" (2024), Migrating to Prison: America's Obsession with Locking Up Immigrants (2019), and Crimmigration Law (2015). César's three dozen scholarly articles about the right to counsel for migrants in the criminal justice system, immigration imprisonment, and race-based immigration policing have appeared in Dædalus, the California Law Review, Michigan Law Review, and UCLA Law Review, among others, earning him a position among the ten most-cited immigration law scholars in the United States.

César's analyses of policies affecting migrants regularly appear in media in the United States and abroad. He has published opinion articles in The New York Times, Los Angeles

Times, The Guardian, Time, and many other venues. He publishes the Immigration Law Unhinged newsletter and writes the Immigration Matters column for SCOTUSblog. He also served two terms as a member of the American Bar Association's Commission on Immigration.

César was born and raised in McAllen, Texas, and is of counsel to García & García Attorneys at Law, P.L.L.C.



Anita Huízar-Hernández

Associate Director, Hispanic Research Center; Associate Professor, School of International Letters and Cultures, ASU

Moderator — Panel 2

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Anita Huízar-Hernández is Associate Director of the Hispanic Research Center, Publisher and Managing Editor of the Bilingual Press | Editorial Bilingüe, and Associate Professor in the School of International Letters and Cultures at Arizona State University. Born and raised in Arizona, her teaching and research focus on the ways literature, film, and other forms of expressive culture have consolidated or challenged myths about Arizona, the West, and the U.S.–Mexico borderlands. She is the author of Forging Arizona: A History of the Peralta Land Grant and Racial Identity in the West (Rutgers University Press, 2019) and is currently working on her second book, From Cristero to Chicano: Mexican Catholic Nationalism and the Making of Latino Identity. Her collaborative digital projects include "DETAINED: Voices from the Migrant Incarceration System," a partnership to archive the stories of asylum seekers incarcerated in Arizona.



Dean Stacy Leeds

Willard H. Pedrick Dean, Regents and Foundation Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU

Opening Remarks

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Stacy Leeds is an experienced leader in law, higher education, economic development, and conflict resolution. She is the Willard H. Pedrick Dean and Regents Professor at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she is a top national scholar and public intellectual on Indigenous law and policy. In addition to serving as dean of two law schools (Arizona State and Arkansas), she was the inaugural Vice Chancellor for Economic Development at the University of Arkansas. She became the first Indigenous woman in the United States to serve as a law school dean when she was named dean of the University of Arkansas School of Law in 2011. Dean Leeds is an elected member of the American Law Institute and a recipient of the American Bar Association's Spirit of Excellence Award. She earned her B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis and her J.D. from the University of Wisconsin Law School.



Professor David Lopez

Distinguished Professor of Practice; Director, Civil Rights, Migration and Workplace Law Initiative, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU

Welcome & Introductions; Closing Remarks

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David Lopez is a nationally recognized leader in civil rights, migration, and labor law whose career has been defined by advancing justice through advocacy, scholarship, and public service. He served as the longest-serving General Counsel of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) from 2010 to 2016, leading high-impact litigation in federal courts nationwide addressing LGBTQ+ coverage under anti-discrimination law, protections for vulnerable immigrant communities, disability rights, and religious freedom. He was twice nominated by President Barack Obama and confirmed by the United States

Senate. He also served as Co-Dean of Rutgers Law School–Newark and as a partner at Outten & Golden in Washington, D.C. A Fellow of the College of Labor and Employment Attorneys, he was named one of “America’s 50 Outstanding General Counsels” by The National Law Journal in 2014. A proud ASU alumnus and co-founder of the ASU Hispanic Convocation, he earned his B.A. magna cum laude from Arizona State University and his J.D. from Harvard Law School.



Salvador (Sal) Macias

Immigration & Criminal Defense Attorney, Macias Law Firm

Panelist — Panel 4

Contact: Sm@maciaslawaz.com

Salvador (Sal) Macias is an immigration and criminal defense attorney at the Macias Law Firm, where he represents individuals navigating the intersection of immigration enforcement and the criminal justice system. He graduated from the Sandra Day O'Connor College of law in the Spring of 2017 and attended Arizona State University and graduated with a B.A. in Political Science, a B.A. in Transborder Chicano/a Latino/a Studies with a minor in Spanish. Currently, he is the Chair for the Los Abogados Hispanic Bar Association. Based in Arizona, he personally has experienced the difficulties Mixed-Status families confront on a daily basis. Macias brings frontline legal experience to the challenges facing mixed-status families and immigrant communities under heightened enforcement pressure.



Rafael A. Martínez, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Southwest Borderlands, College of Integrative Sciences and Arts, ASU

Panelist — Panel 2

Contact: r.martinez@asu.edu

Rafael A. Martínez is an Assistant Professor at Arizona State University (ASU) in Southwest Borderlands whose work focuses on immigrant rights, mixed-status families, and Latinx cultural and historical productions in the southwest borderlands. Dr. Martínez’s award-winning book (2025 International Latino Book Award – Silver Medal – Best Academic Themed Book, College Level) with the University of Arizona Press, Illegalized: Undocumented Youth Movements in the United States, analyzes the rise of Undocumented Youth Social Movements in the U.S. and immigrant youth’s contributions to the broader Immigrant Rights Movements. Dr. Martínez is the Co-Director of the newly launched Latinx Oral History Lab at ASU.



Golden McCarthy

Executive Director, Phoenix Legal Action Network (PLAN)

Panelist — Panel 2

Contact: golden@planphx.org

Golden is a Southwest kid at heart, growing up in a small mountain town in Colorado. As a child, she witnessed her Mexican American grandparent’s organizing for basic needs in their neighborhood, and it instilled in her the values of community connection and mutual aid. She spent 10 years at the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, where she cultivated her immigration law expertise and became their first Deputy Director, overseeing legal, social services, and pro bono programs that serve thousands of immigrants detained in Arizona. In 2023, Golden joined the Office of Refugee Resettlement as a Policy Advisor, where she worked on federal policies impacting the care and custody of unaccompanied children. As a founding board member and later as an avid supporter, she has been incredibly amazed and proud of PLAN’s work. For Golden, it is an honor to be in her role of Executive Director at PLAN. Golden is happiest hanging out with her family and friends and watching her son play fútbol.



Honorable Jorge Mendoza Yescas

Consul General of Mexico in Phoenix, Arizona

Panelist — Panel 3

Contact: marreguin@sre.gob.mx

He holds a Law Degree from the University of Sonora and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Sul Ross State University in Texas. With more than 20 years of experience in consular affairs, he has built a distinguished career in diplomatic service. Throughout his trajectory, he has served in Mexican consulates in Tucson, Presidio, and Vancouver, gaining extensive expertise in community engagement, protection services, and international relations.

Since 2019, he has served as Consul General in Phoenix, Arizona, where he has led important initiatives to strengthen support for the Mexican community. Among his key achievements is the recognition of the Mexican Consular ID (Matrícula Consular) as an official form of identification in Arizona in 2021. He also spearheaded the creation of the Entrepreneurship Program for Mexican Women Abroad in collaboration with Arizona State University.

Additionally, he implemented the "Door-to-Door" program to expand access to consular services and helped grow the IME Becas program to support students of Mexican origin. His work has been recognized with several honors, including the Mayor's Export Champion of the Year Award (2022), Legacy Honoree (2023) in the Valley of the Sun, and Advocate of the Year (2024) by the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Caitlin Millat

Associate Professor of Law, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, ASU

Panelist — Panel 1

Contact: Caitlin.Millat@asu.edu

Caitlin Millat, an associate professor of law, joined the ASU Law faculty in 2023. She writes principally on the intersection of education, the family, and the state, focusing her research on education law, family law, children and the law, gender and the law, and the law of democracy. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in the UCLA Law Review, Georgetown Law Journal, New York University Law Review, and North Carolina Law Review, among other journals.

Before joining ASU Law, Millat was a Climenko Fellow and Lecturer on Law at Harvard Law School. She previously worked as a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine and Moore in New York, and also served as a law clerk to the Honorable Victor A. Bolden of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut and the Honorable Norman H. Stahl of the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Millat received her J.D. cum laude from New York University School of Law, where she upon graduation received the Daniel G. Collins Prize for excellence in contract law. She received her B.A. cum laude from New York University and her Masters in Childhood Education from Hunter College. Prior to attending law school, Millat worked as an elementary school teacher and administrator in Brooklyn.



Reyna Montoya

Founder & CEO, Aliento

Panelist — Panel 4

Contact: reyna@alientoaz.org

Reyna E. Montoya is a DACAmented social entrepreneur, educator, dancer, and community organizer born in Tijuana, Mexico. She migrated to Arizona in 2003, fleeing violence, and dedicates her life to advancing justice, healing, and education equity for Dreamer students and mixed-status families. Reyna is the founder and CEO of Aliento, a nonprofit that uplifts these communities through art, leadership development, and advocacy. Under her leadership, Aliento has impacted over 70,000 individuals and educated nearly 100,000 voters, playing a key role in passing Prop 308, which secured in-state tuition for Dreamer students in Arizona.

Reyna holds degrees in Political Science and Transborder Studies, a Dance minor from ASU, an M.Ed from Grand Canyon University, and an executive education certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School. She is a Teach For America alum, a Forbes 30 Under 30

honoree, Ashoka Fellow, and Echoing Green Fellow, among other recognitions. In 2013, she helped stop a deportation bus and protect her family.



Nicole Elizabeth Ramos

Director, Border Rights Project, Al Otro Lado, Tijuana, Mexico

Panelist — Panel 3

Contact: nicole@alotrolado.org

Nicole Elizabeth Ramos is an attorney, movement strategist, and recognized expert on U.S. border policy, the right to seek asylum at the border, and the impact of immigration enforcement on deportees to México and mixed-status families. She is a co-founder of the binational nonprofit Al Otro Lado, which provides legal, humanitarian, and social services to thousands of asylum seekers, deportees, and immigrants annually. Based in Tijuana, México, Ms. Ramos directs its Border Rights Project.

With more than 15 years of experience in law, policy, and advocacy, Ms. Ramos has led federal litigation and campaigns challenging policies that jeopardize the safety of asylum seekers and migrants. She has designed and implemented innovative legal orientation and humanitarian programs at the U.S.–Mexico border, ensuring vulnerable populations, including linguistically isolated and Black migrant communities, can access protection and essential services.

Ms. Ramos regularly advocates before international human rights bodies and lectures at universities and law schools on U.S. border enforcement and asylum law. She serves as an adjunct professor at Temple University Beasley School of Law and consults on public health research examining the effects of restrictive border policies on pregnant asylum seekers, migrant children, and families.



Evelyn Marcelina Rangel-Medina

Assistant Professor of Law, Temple University; Non-Resident Fellow, Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality

Panelist — Panel 1

Contact: evelyn.rangel-medina@temple.edu

Evelyn Rangel-Medina (Wixárika) is an interdisciplinary legal scholar who writes and teaches in the areas of immigration law, constitutional criminal procedure, employment discrimination law, indigenous rights, and race and the law. Her publications have appeared or are forthcoming in the Boston University Law Review, the Boston College Law Review, and the UC Irvine Law Review. Her work investigates intersectional subordination, particularly how immigration law and enforcement produces racialized outcomes for mixed-status families and communities, especially for U.S. citizens of color. The first person in her family to attend college in the United States, she earned her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where she was named an inaugural University of California Presidential Public Interest Law Fellow. She holds three bachelor's degrees from UNLV, graduating magna cum laude in English Literature, Women's Studies, and Political Science.



Cassaundra Rodriguez

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Panelist — Panel 1 (Virtual)

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Cassaundra Rodriguez is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Department at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She earned her doctorate degree in Sociology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2017. She specializes in the areas of Latinx sociology, immigration and citizenship, family, race, and gender. Her research primarily tackles questions on (1) how belonging is negotiated and claimed by immigrant and Latinx communities and (2) how intergenerational relationships are navigated by the children of immigrants. Her first book Contested Americans: Mixed-Status Families in Anti-Immigrant Times engages these questions by centering on how members of mixed-status families – that is families that include U.S. citizens and undocumented immigrants – experience belonging and manage illegality in their lives. This book was a finalist for the SSSP C.

Wright Mills Award and received an ASA Latino/a Sociology Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award honorable mention.

Photo Pending

Katie Ruhl

Managing Attorney, Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

Panelist — Panel 4

Contact: kruhl@firrp.org

Katharine (Katie) Ruhl is a Managing Attorney at the Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project, where she leads the Adult Pro Bono Program, coordinating volunteer attorneys who represent detained immigrants in removal proceedings across Arizona. She has spent more than a decade at the Florence Project in various capacities, developing deep expertise in immigration detention, asylum law, and the legal needs of individuals in immigration custody. Her work involves legal counseling, case management, and representation for vulnerable populations navigating the complexities of immigration law. She earned her J.D. from King Hall University of California, Davis School of Law.



Senator Karina Ruiz

Senator, Mexican Legislature; Former Executive Director, Arizona Dream Act Coalition

Panelist — Panel 2 (Virtual)

Contact: Karinaisabelruizdediaz@gmail.com

Karina Ruiz made history in 2024 when she was elected as the first migrant and Dreamer senator in the Mexican Congress, representing the State of México and the estimated 12 million Mexicans living abroad. Born in Tlalnepantla de Baz, México, she emigrated to Arizona in 1999 at age 15. As an undocumented student, she experienced anti-immigrant laws firsthand, including SB 1070, and fought for immigration reform and in-state tuition access for undocumented students. It took her 12 years to complete her degree in biochemistry at Arizona State University due to barriers created by Proposition 300. As Executive Director of the Arizona Dream Act Coalition (ADAC), she mobilized Dreamer communities and advocated for policies benefiting undocumented youth, playing a key role in promoting civic engagement. In the Mexican Senate, Senator Ruiz focuses on binational education, school exchanges, and policies supporting the rights and contributions of Mexicans abroad.

For more information: **law.asu.edu/civil-rights-migration-and-workplace-law-initiative**
Register: **tiny.cc/mixtedstatusapril9**